indices from Consumer Price Index for Agricultural Labourers (CPIAL) to update the rural poverty line and a simple average of suitably weighted commodity indices of Consumer Price Index for Industrial Workers (CPIW) and Consumer Price Index on Urban Non-manual employees (CPINM) for updating the urban poverty line.

(5) Given the updated State-wise poverty lines and the corresponding size distribution of the per capita consumption expenditure (PCCE) of National Sample Survey (NSS), the number of poor as a percentage of total population or the poverty ratio should be calculated separately for rural and urban areas for each State. The absolute number of poor in each State. The absolute number of poor in each State in rural and urban area should be calculated by applying the poverty ratio to the estimated population as given by the Registrar General of Census. The all-India (rural and urban) poverty ratio should be derived as a ratio of the aggregate number of State-wise poor persons to the total all-India (rural and urban) population. The implicit all-India poverty line may be worked out, given the all-India poverty ratio and the all-India distribution of population by expenditure classes obtained from the same NSS survey.

(6) The poverty line and poverty ratio in respect of States, where availability of adequate data is a constraint, may be assigned from neighbouring areas on the basis of consideration of physical contiguity of areas and similarity of economic profile as indicated by other economic parameters.

(7) The NSS consumption surveys - which are carried out every 5 years yielding State level estimates of mean per capita consumption expenditure and the size distribution of population around the mean, should be the basic source of information for estimating, on quinquennial basis, the proportion of the population below the poverty line and changes therein. Calculation of poverty line and poverty ratios following the recommended method should be worked out for the years 1977-78, 1983 and 1987-88 and onwards as and when the State-wise results of quinquennial NSS rounds of comprehensive household surveys are available.

(8) The Group favours exclusive reliance on the NSS data on household consumption expenditure (without any adjustment) for estimating the poverty ratio by States and in rural and urban areas.

Drinking Water

20. SHRI AMAR PAL SINGH : Will the Minister of RURAL AREAS AND EMPLOYMENT be pleased to state :

(a) whether the attention of the Union Government has been drawn to the news-item published in "Hindustan Times" dated October 19, 1996 regarding cases of deaths, diseases and disability as a result of drinking water from hand-pumps and also due to drinking of piped water under the scheme funded by the Centre;

(b) if so, the details of such cases which came to the notice of the Union Government during 1994, 1995 and 1996; and

(c) the corrective measures being taken in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RURAL AREAS AND EMPLOYMENT (SHRI CHANDRADEO PRASAD VARMA) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) and (c). *Arsenic* : 4636 cases of arsenic dermatosis have been reported from West Bengal upto August, 1996. Rs. 98.10 crore have been approved to provide safe drinking water in the affected areas of West Bengal during 1994-96.

Fluorosis : An amount of Rs.193.95 crores as Central assistance has been released during 1992-96 to various States to undertake measures to provide safe drinking water in the habitations affected by excess flouride in drinking water.

Further Rs.1.64 crore has also been released to the States to establish water quality testing laboratories to check and ensure supply of safe drinking water.

[Translation]

Power Generation in U.P.

21. SHRI S.P. JAISWAL : Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state :

(a) the total requirement of electricity in Uttar Pradesh by the year 2000 AD;

(b) whether required electricity is to be met by the local power plants;

(c) the quantum of electricity produced by the present power plants;

(d) the details thereof; and

(e) the steps taken by the Government to fulfil the demand of electricity in the State?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF POWER AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF NON-CONVENTIONAL ENERGY SOURCES (DR. S. VENUGOPALACHARI) : (a) The 15th Electric Power Survey Report projects the total requirement of electricity in Uttar Pradesh to be of the order of 52.4 billion units by the year 2000 AD.

(b) Power requirement of U.P. would be met from its share from Central Generating companies and power plants located in the State.